MONTEREY NEWS

May 2011
VOLUME XLI · Number 5

The Town

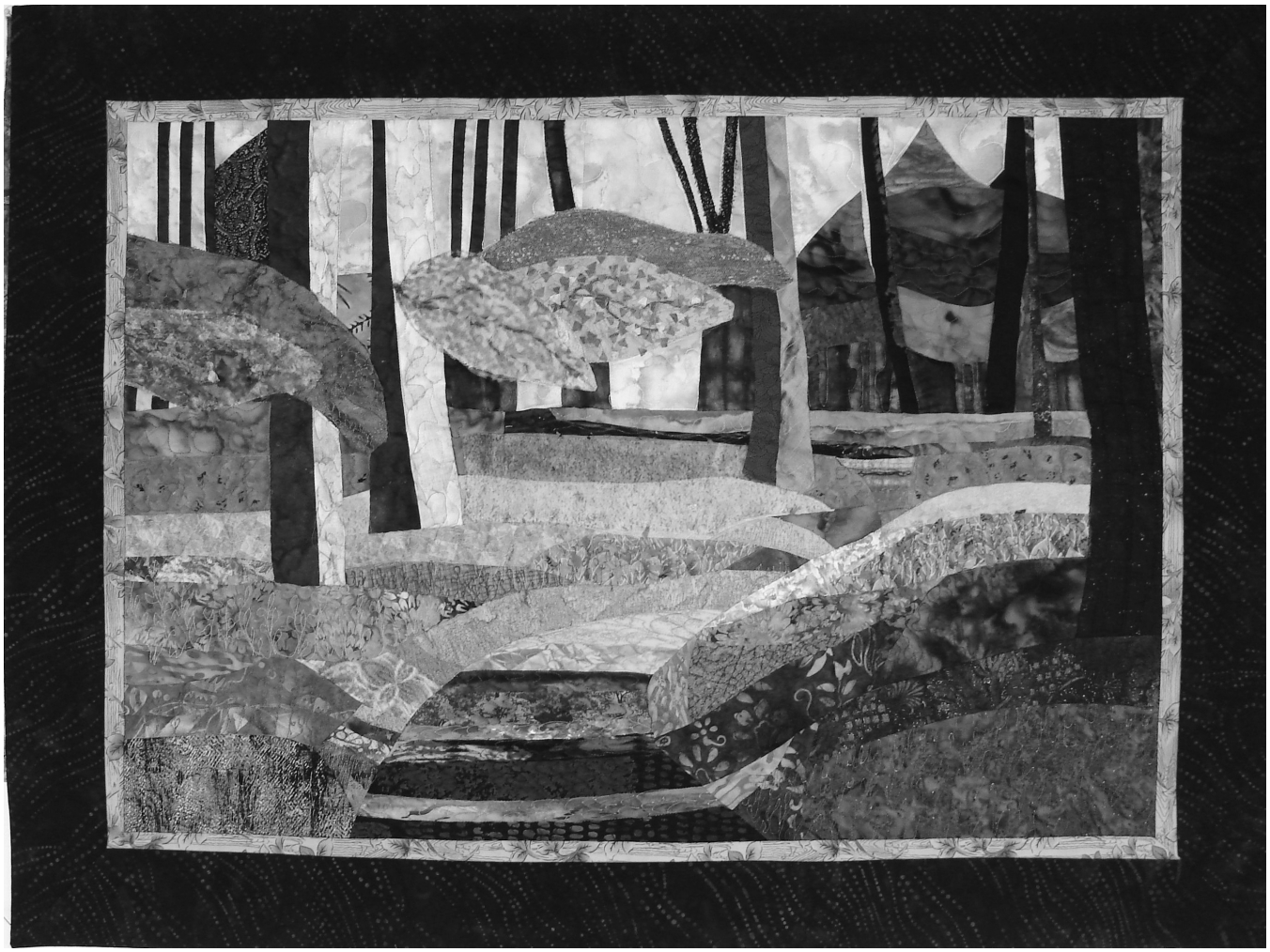
From Select Board minutes, with additional reporting by Will Marsh

Town Meeting Warrant

The May 7th annual town meeting promises to be interesting since there are some complicated and controversial articles on the warrant. The complete warrant has been mailed to town voters and is available on the town website (www.montereyma.gov). The Finance Committee hosted an informational meeting about the warrant on April 29, but as usual only a smattering of people attended.

The total operating budget requested for FY2012 is $2,965, 244, up $113,939 from FY2011. As always, the largest item is the school budget, at $1,096, 641, an increase of $33,960 from last year. The total funding requested in special articles, if all are approved, is $856,641, up $500,738 over last year, but as explained in the next paragraph, $500,000 of that will not end up being an actual expense for the Town.

Article 7 asks the Town to authorize borrowing $500,000 for paving and drainage on Main Road (Route 23). This will not in the end be an actual expense, since the roadwork will be reimbursed 100 percent



Pam Johnson

"Bluebell Wood" by Pam Johnson and other quilts made by the Monterey Piecemakers will be on display in the Monterey Library from May 5–28. Stop by and see them to appreciate their beautiful craftswomanship and colors. *See article, p. 11.*

by the state through the STRAP grant the Town has been awarded (see "Highways," p. 3). The borrowing of some or all of the $500,00 may be necessary because the work must be paid for before the reimbursement is received.

Article 5 is a dead issue and will in all probability be passed over in the meeting. So, what's going on? You will recall that last year a new Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) agreement, was proposed, which would restructure how the district would be funded and allow a school to be closed by a vote of four of the five member towns instead of all five as before. For this new agreement to go into effect, all five district member towns had to approve it at town meeting; Monterey approved it last May, as did Sheffield and Alford, and later New Marlborough. Egremont delayed their vote until a special town meeting last fall. In the meantime 200 Egremont voters, by petition, had a different version of the agreement put on the same special town meeting warrant. Then at the meeting (pay attention now), a majority of Egremont voters rejected the proposed agreement of the petitioners and approved the same agreement the other four district towns had approved, which then became the operative district school agreement. However, because the petitioners' agreement had been put on the Egremont town meeting warrant, it has to appear on the warrants of all the other member towns (per the previous operative agreement), even though it became a dead issue as soon as Egremont rejected it since it would have required unanimous approval to go into effect.

If you think that was simple, have a look at Article 6, which asks the Town to disapprove authorizing the SBRSD to borrow up to $3,000,000 to remodel and make repairs to various district school buildings and purchase capital equipment for technology upgrades. The Monterey Select Board and Finance Committee have reviewed the proposed budget and are in favor of authorizing the borrowing. So why, you might ask, does the wording ask the Town to disapprove the authorization? Well, according to Town Counsel, when the school committee proposes borrowing, the only option the district member towns have is to vote on whether or not to disapprove the authorization. If you are totally confused, so is this writer, but the thing to remember is that a yes vote is a vote to disapprove, while a no vote is a vote to approve (the vote recommended by the Select Board and Finance Committee). (For whatever it's worth, the wording in the corresponding articles on other district towns' warrants is reported to be "approve.")

Other monetary articles include Article 9 requesting $28,855 for a new police cruiser; Article 14, requesting $38,000 for an addition to the Highway Garage to cover the fuel pumps; several articles requesting funding for various Fire Department equipment; Article 18 requesting $11,000 to hire a consultant to revise the town's bylaws (see story, p. 7); Article 26, $11,400 for repairs and maintenance of the Bally Gally house; Article 27, $46,356 for loan and interest on Highway Department trucks; Article 28, $72, 935 for loan and interest on salt shed construction; and Article 17, authorizing the Assessors to transfer $150,000 from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for FY2012.

Article 19, which will be voted on by ballot, asks the Town to authorize the Select Board to establish and maintain a municipal lighting plant. Approval of this article will allow the Town to join the WiredWest public municipal cooperative that is working to build a last-mile fiber-optic network to provide broadband service to western Massachusetts. To go into effect the article has to be passed by a two-thirds majority at two town meetings; it was approved almost unanimously at the March 3rd special town meeting, so this is the second vote.

Article 30 asks the Town to amend the bylaws so that the annual town election, currently held on the same day as

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annual town meeting, will be held on the first Tuesday in May following the first Saturday annual town meeting in May.

Article 31 asks the Town to amend the bylaws, which currently do not allow dogs in town parks, to say that dogs are not allowed on the town beach or Green Park or any other location where the Town post signage prohibiting dogs. (In case you've been sleeping, this amendment will allow dogs in the proposed dog park on the Wilson-McLaughlin property.)

And you've no doubt been waiting for Articles 32 and 33, which asks the Town to amend the bylaws to establish a Telecommunications Overlay District that consists of the land within the Town of Monterey (see story, p. 6).

It might be wise to pack a lunch, or perhaps we should all order in pizza.

Highways and Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported at the April 25th Select Board meeting that Monterey had been awarded a STRAP (Small Town Rural Assistance Program) grant of $500,000 from Massachusetts Department of Transportation to repair the worst sections of Route 23. Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert signed the necessary paperwork and commended Forbes for his work in procuring the grant. Work should begin this summer.

Forbes also reported that Monterey is on the DOT's 2021–2025 list to receive TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) funds, currently projected to be $3.157 million, to completely resurface Route 23 from the Great Barrington to the Otis town lines.

Richard Piepho of Beartown Mountain Road asked the Board at the May 4th meeting if that road is going to be paved this year. The Board said that the work was supposed to have been done last year, but since this year's focus will now be on Route 23, the work on Beartown will most likely be pushed back another year. Piepho also said that he has been cleaning the culvert by his house for the last fifteen years, and since it is tipped now he is no longer going to maintain it. He also asked about having trees that are on the road cut and was referred to the Tree Warden. At the May 11th meeting, Maynard Forbes said that, depending on the Route 23 project, the Highway Department will be replacing culverts and drainage on Beartown Mountain Road this summer and replacing the large boiler tube from the dam. Next summer they will reclaim sections of the road and repave it.

Forbes reported that the January 12th snowstorm (27 inches, remember?) had been declared a disaster by the federal government, making Monterey eligible to receive about $19,000 (three-quarters of the cleanup costs) from FEMA. If this comes through, then that portion of the $55,000 requested to be transferred from Free Cash to the Sand and Salt Account in Article 4 of the May 7th special town meeting to make up for the overrun in this year's budget will not be needed.

Bonner McAllester

Lucy Cain, Easter Egg Hunt, April 24.

The Select Board reviewed a letter from MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association), the Town's insurer, with a report from their loss control department and their observations on their February 16th inspection. The Select Board is responsible for getting the work done and the Highway Department can do the work where necessary.

The Transfer Station contract is up for renewal and is being reviewed.

Forbes reported the following Highway Department activity during the month:

- Checking roads.
- Picking up trees from Wilson House and Tyringham and Sandisfield Roads.
- Cleaning out culverts from beaver activity on Fairview Road.
- Patching potholes on Main and Beartown Mountain Roads.
- Putting the plows and sanders back on the trucks, and plowing, salting and sanding for the April 22nd snowstorm.
- Began initial planning and spoke with the engineers for Route 23 project and STRAP Grant.
- Fixed signs on Main Road and Tyringham Road.

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- Cleaning off basins.
- Repaired load cover and hydraulic hose on OshKosh truck.
- Repaired washes on Mt Hunger and Harmon Roads.

Police Blotter

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported the following Police Department activity during the month:

- Call came from NMPD regarding a breaking and entering in Monterey on Pine St; ongoing investigation.
- Disturbance reported on Main Road.
- Investigating larceny on Hupi Road.
- Rabid animal call on Mt. Hunger Road.
- Party complaining of being harassed on Blue Hill Road; police investigated and found no evidence to support the complaint.
- Missing persons reported on Swann Rd; lost parties were found.
- False Alarms: Brett Road, Mt. Hunger Estates, Main Road.
- Responded to call about loose dogs on Blue Hill Road. Owner was found and told the dogs needed to be tagged.
- Building checks, Beartown Mounntain and Art School Roads.
- Assisted with traffic at medical call on Main Road.
- Assisted New Marlborough Police with a 209A (Abuse Prevention Act) infraction.
- Suspicious activity reported on Blue Hill Rd; police responded and found nothing.
- Assisted with a disabled vehicle on Main Road.
- Abandoned 911 calls, Gould Road—misdial.
- Thirteen traffic stops

WiredWest Report

Monica Webb, Monterey's representative on WiredWest, the regional municipal cooperative initiative to bring fiber optic broadband service to all residences and businesses in unserved and underserved communities in western Massachusetts, reported to the Select Board on recent activities.

The Draft 2011 Berkshire County Comprehensive Economic Development Survey, an evaluation process conducted by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and a committee of regional economic development stakeholders, ranked a Regional Telecommunications Network, which includes WiredWest, as the top priority among "Projects Representing the Greatest Needs Regionally." This puts the WiredWest project in good position to seek funding and other support.

WiredWest's mission is to provide the "final-mile" connection in the broadband network, from individual residences and businesses to the central trunk line (the backbone or "middle mile") running through the center of each town and providing service to public "anchor points"—town halls, police and fire departments, libraries. The middle-mile network is being overseen by MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Initiative), which was partly funded by the state and is also receiving funds from the federal stimulus program. There are several components to building and operating the middle mile. MBI has not yet selected the company that will construct it. They have selected a company (Axia, from Alberta, Canada) to run the network. Axia will manage and maintain MBI's middle mile, but they will not provide retail services, since the MBI backbone itself doesn't connect to individual homes and businesses. Axia will engage last-mile providers (including WiredWest) to build final-mile infrastructure to connect homes and businesses, and also to provide services to the nonpublic safety anchor institutions.

However, there is a potential snag for Monterey. The MBI submitted an application to the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) for a federal stimulus grant in March 2010. In that application 1392 anchor institution

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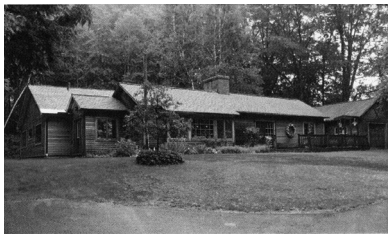

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points were identified, which the MBI had determined without consulting the communities themselves. They told everyone that all town halls, public safety agencies, libraries, and public schools/colleges and healthcare facilities were on the list. Local representatives had not been identified at that point so no local people had access to the institutions on the list, but we all assumed they would have the institutions on the list as previously announced. In September 2010, two months after the grant had been awarded, the MBI formed a network of community representatives (one for each town, Webb for Monterey), and the first task was to review the list of anchor institutions for the towns and add or remove any that were not legitimate anchor institutions by the federal definition. As soon as Webb received the Monterey list she advised the MBI that the Monterey Library was missing, and provided them with location and address information for the library. All of our other anchor institutions were on the list, including the Firehouse and Town Hall (Board of Health, Police Dept and Town Hall Offices will all be connected).

After all towns had reviewed their anchor institutions and made modifications, the number of anchor institutions had risen to 1,700. The MBI has said they can only fund connections to 1,392 as per the grant, so they are in the field assessing all 1,700 to determine which 1,392 to connect. At this point it is not known if they will leave the Monterey Library off the list.

More about WiredWest can be found on their website: www.wiredwest.net, and copies of a DVD about WiredWest are available at the library. People can also email Webb directly with questions at monica@wiredwest.net.

Lawsuit against ZBA over Dog Park

The Select Board reviewed a copy of a complaint Charles Ferris intends to file in Berkshire Superior Court seeking to annul the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals' March 22nd decision denying the Monterey Select Board's request to amend the restrictions on the Wilson-McLaughlin property to allow a proposed dog park to be constructed there (see article in April Monterey News). Mr. Ferris stated in the complaint that he was acting on behalf of himself and the Ad Hoc Monterey Dog Park Committee and the Town of Monterey; he further stated: "As designated attorney, agent or representative of the Town of Monterey, Charles J. Ferris also has authority to represent the interests of the Town of Monterey and its citizens." The Select Board made it clear that they do not intend to appeal the ZBA's decision, that Mr. Ferris is not an agent for the Town of Monterey in this matter, and that if he wanted to file a legal complaint he would have to file a revised one without including the Town. They sent a letter to Mr. Ferris to that effect.

This and That

On the recommendation of Building Commissioner Donald Torrico, the Select Board appointed Nick Fredsall as the Electrical Inspector for a two-year term.

As suggested in documents received from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Select Board voted to have Monterey remain as one precinct. The Board also signed the "Single Precinct Authorization Form," which will be returned to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Adam Goodman reported that Verizon had installed DSL at his residence on Blue Hill Road.

Michael Storch asked about the status of the money for the dog park fencing. The money is being held until it is approved and released by the Select Board or put on the warrant to return to free cash. An article on the May 7th annual town meeting warrant asks the Town to amend the bylaws to allow dogs in the park; however, since the ZBA did not approve the Select Board'srequest to amend special permit 10-01, as of now the proposed dog park is still not an allowed use at the Wilson-McLaughlin House property.

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Planning Board Finalizes Proposed Telecommunications Bylaw

At the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 7, the Monterey Planning Board will present to voters proposed revisions to the Town's telecommunications bylaw: Personal Wireless Facilities, Towers and Repeaters. The Planning Board, in conjunction with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, has been working on the revisions since May 2010, and now Monterey voters will have an opportunity to usher in an era of wireless telecommunications for our residents.

The original telecommunications bylaw, which was passed in 1998, designated Mount Wilcox in Beartown State Forest as the best site for a telecommunications tower. After twelve years, one request for proposals (RFP) to service providers from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and no apparent interest in the Mount Wilcox site by any telecommunications companies, the Planning Board went back to the drawing board. Our goal has been twofold: to create a bylaw that will enable the development of telecommunications infrastructure in Monterey and provide citizens with the option to access these services, and to protect both the natural resources and human habitat of the town.

The most significant proposed change to the bylaw is the expanding of the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District (WTOD) from the summit of Mount Wilcox to include the entire town of Monterey. This means that instead of being limited to within one-quarter of a mile of the summit of Mount Wilcox, telecommunications service providers will be able to assess the whole town to ascertain the optimum sites for cell towers and other wireless services. The Planning Board chose the town-wide overlay district option because the topography in Monterey makes it extremely difficult to create a site-specific bylaw that would provide the option of wireless services to all the citizens of Monterey.

The telecommunications bylaw revisions that will be presented to the Town at the annual town meeting states the requirements for telecommunications providers and also requires a Special Permit, the process of which is overseen by the Monterey Zoning Board of Appeals. The advantage of requiring a Special Permit for the siting of a cell tower or wireless facility is the public notification and oversight that is inherent in the Special Permit process: specifically that abutters are notified and have an opportunity for input. Other important aspects of the bylaw revision are the requirements to minimize proliferation of towers by requiring co-location of antennas on existing towers, and the requirement to minimize visual effects of towers to the extent feasible. The proposed bylaw prohibits towers from wetlands, vernal pools, and endangered wildlife and plant species habitats and provides setbacks for wetlands (100'), riparian zones (200'), historic districts and archaeological sites (500'), and residences (600').

The text of the proposed telecommunications bylaw revision is available at the Town Hall. If voters the in Monterey are interested in having wireless telecommunications services, please read the bylaw and come to the annual town meeting on May 7 and support a new era of telecommunications in Monterey. The Planning Board believes this bylaw is crucial to both the health and safety of Monterey as well as economic development and opportunities for our town and its citizens.

— Maggie Leonard,
Monterey Planning Board

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Revising Our Antiquated Bylaws

It was back in 1974 that Monterey first adopted a set of unified zoning bylaws. Those bylaws stood us in good stead for many years, and they controlled the orderly development of our town. Recently the three groups that work most directly with zoning issues, the Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, and the Building Commissioner, have all come to the same conclusion: many aspects of our zoning bylaws are now problematic and need to be revised. There are numerous causes for this loss of effectiveness of the bylaws: our town has dramatically changed during the intervening years. Most of our seasonal cabins have become year-round homes; state and town laws have been enacted that don't easily fit into the original bylaw organization, so they have been just appended, and court decisions have changed the meaning of key provisions in our bylaws, thus dramatically changing their effect. The Town, mostly through the efforts of the Planning Board, has amended specific bylaws, but there is only so much that can be accomplished with this "band-aide" approach . What is needed is a global reorganization and revision of our bylaws.

Our conclusions about the inadequacy of the bylaws were strongly confirmed by Mark Bobrowski, a recognized expert in Massachusetts municipal law and land use. We retained him to review and critique our zoning bylaws. The results of his independent assessment are posted on the ZBA's pages of the Town's website. Mark Bobrowski is well qualified to render a critique; he is a professor of law at the New England School of Law, where his specialty is municipal law and land use, he has a private practice solely devoted to municipal law and land use, and he has helped about 125 towns in Massachusetts in restructuring and revising their bylaws, including Great Barrington, Otis, Lenox, and Sheffield.

With the consent and support of the Select Board, a small group was set up to investigate revising the bylaws and, if the Town decided to go forward with this project, to assist the Select Board in implementing its decisions on the matter. The committee includes three members of the ZBA, three members of the Planning Board, and the Building Commissioner.

We have asked Mr. Bobrowski to outline a procedure for revising the bylaws and what his fee would be to carry out the revision, if the Town approved the project.

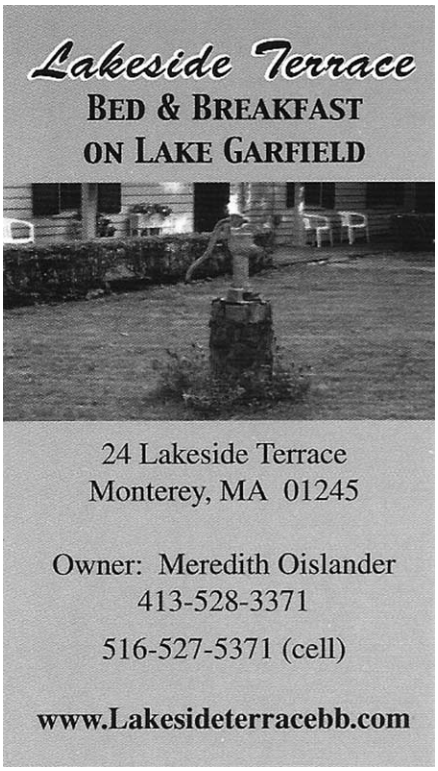
He outlined a process (also posted on the Board of Appeals' web pages) in which he and the committee will have three open, public meetings here in Monterey to review various portions of the bylaws and consider potential changes. Armed with this information, he will draw up a first draft of the revised bylaws. After a fourth public meeting to fine-tune it and to accommodate additional comments, he will develop a final version. All involved expect the final version to be finished in a year and to be presented to the town residents for their consideration and approval at the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

Mark Bobrowski's fee for this service is $11,000. We have placed an article on the May 7, 2011, warrant asking whether the Town would raise and appropriate the $11,000 for the bylaw revision. We hope that you will support this modest cost for the modernization of our zoning bylaws.

— Robert Lazzarini, for the Monterey Select Board, Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and Building Commissioner

No Bidders for General Store

A sizable group of concerned townspeople gathered at the Monterey General Store on Friday, April 29, to observe the auction of the building and premises. There were no bidders. The store remains for sale by the current owner, Helen Boehm. Tim Lovett of Berkshire Property Agents is acting as the agent for Ms. Boehm.



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May 7th Town Election Slate

There are no contested seats in this year's town election (and no candidate for one position), but show your support anyway. All candidates are endorsed by both Democratic and Republican caucuses.

Zoning Board of Appeals (5 yr):
Stanley Ross
Board of Assessors (3 yr):
Robert Lazzarini (inc)
Board of Assessors (1 yr):
Jacob Krans
Board of Health (3 yr):
John Makuc (inc)
Cemetery Commission (3 yr):
Thomas Haugh (inc)
Finance Committee (3 yr):
Michael Storch (inc)
Library Trustee (2 seats for 3 yr):
Kenneth Basler (inc)
Laurie Shaw (inc)
Moderator (1 yr):
Mark Makuc (inc)
Park Commission (3 yr):
Emily Johnson
Planning Board (5 yr):
Larry Klein (inc)
Planning Board (3 yr):
no candidate (inc)
Select Board (3 yr):
Jon Sylbert (inc)
Tree Warden (1 yr):
Shaylan Burkhart (inc)

Introducing Jacob Krans

Each year we ask first-time candidates for town office to write a letter introducing themselves to the voters. Here is one from Jake Krans. — Ed.

I was selected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessors earlier this year, and am excited to continue serving on the Board of Assessors. I moved to South County in the early 1990s and have called Monterey home for the past eight years. My wife and I built our house on Cronk Road even before knowing if we could "make it" in Monterey, so strong are our ties to our family in the Berkshires. We have three daughters, one of whom is in Mrs. Webster's Kindergarten class at the Monterey school, and the other two who look forward to it!

Over the past decade, I've taught biology and neuroscience at Mount Holyoke College, Central Connecticut State University (New Britain), and now Western New England College.

Community contribution is one of the ways I define myself. In addition to driving me toward service-oriented teaching positions, we routinely provide eggs, syrup, and hardwood to our family and friends in the area. My long work schedule presents a challenge to making it to meeting times of most town committees, but works well with the Assessors schedule. Mr. Clawson commands an impressive corpus of assessing knowledge, and I'm enthusiastic to learn from him about the work. We plan to take the Massachusetts Assessors class together this August at UMass, if my position on the Board continues.

Please consider voting for me as a member of the Board of Assessors.

— Jacob Krans

Remember Memorial Day, Monday, May 30

An observance for all veterans and friends will be held at 11:00 am at Veterans Memorial Park, corner of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road.

The Memorial Day Parade will start at 1:00 pm at the intersection Sandisfield Road and Main Road and proceed through the center of town to the Firehouse, where refreshments will be served.

Helpers are needed to set up the parade and the refreshments. Anyone willing to help should please contact the Select Board.

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Elderly Transportation

For many years Monterey's Council on Aging has focused its attention on transportation for our senior citizens. Many of our elderly no longer drive and, therefore, must rely on services provided for their use by local organizations. We are fortunate to have the SBETC (Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation), a nonprofit corporation comprised of the nine towns of southern Berkshires. Monterey's financial support of this valuable resource is a Formula Grant to the Town by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, in Boston.

Early this spring the SBETC announced that the rapidly rising fuel costs, vehicle maintenance, and the unpredictable economy had all combined to push the corporation into financial difficulties. No increased funding had been requested of the nine towns since 2002, but an additional 25 percent for each town has been projected for the coming fiscal year. There will also be further efficiencies gained by reducing the already small staff, relying even more on donated time, and limiting the trips to four days each week. A small rise from $7 to $10 per round trip for each passenger from outlying towns was reluctantly added. With this intense focus on budget management, the SBETC hopes to continue serving the citizens of the nine towns.

This freedom of movement enables our seniors, as well as disabled persons, to keep doctor appointments, accomplish shopping and other errands, socialize and enjoy nutritious meals at the Great Barrington Senior Center, etc., and is a vital element of their well-being and quality of life. Contributions are always welcome; the SBETC is located at 917 Main Street, Great Barrington, and can be reached at 528-4773.

— Cynthia Weber & Fran Amidon
Monterey Council on Aging

Arrowheads Presentation at May 18th Potluck

At the April potluck, we heard about the successes of the group who participated in the Monterey Community Garden last year. Ruth Green gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the background, and several people spoke about how much they enjoyed the camaraderie and learning more about gardening last summer after gardening their whole lives. One plot is still available, and if there is interest, room to make six more.

For the May 18th potluck, we will have Sheffield farmer Warren Wilcox presenting the extensive collection of arrowheads he has accumulated over the past forty or so years. Nearly all the specimens are from his Windy Hill Farm or from New Marlborough, east of the Housatonic.

The final Monterey Potluck Dinner of the season will be held on Wednesday, May 18, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

Monterey General Store: 1770–2011?

Perhaps only after it actually closed on April 3, did the full shock of losing our General Store finally hit our community. It has meant so many different things, big and small, to us: a meet and greet space for friends and neighbors, a source of a tasty sandwich for breakfast or lunch, a quick stop for coffee on the run, a nearby solution for Cherry Garcia ice cream emergencies, a place for the children to stop and wait for Mom or Dad after being dropped by their school bus. Now, there is a strange draft and a hollow feeling as we pass by its closed doors. Losing the store was like losing another dear friend. We need to have our General Store. We of Monterey certainly have the talent, the moxie, the resources to keep a store here at the heart of our town. What will it look like? How do we make this happen?

We need to talk together about what we want from a Monterey General Store and what we can do to sustain it. First, we need to see what the results of the foreclosure auction 4/29 will bring. Then we need to dream and scheme together possibilities for our store in the future. Join us in some community conversations about the General Store on Saturday, May 21, at 3 pm, in the church basement (meetinghouse) to play your part in reviving the store.

— Judith Bach, Hy Rosen, Pat Salomon

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Monterey Library Notes

We at the Monterey Library are always trying to make sure there's good Internet connectivity in Monterey. Several years ago we were able to get wifi through the General Store's satellite. We hooked up to DSL as soon as it was available, and our wifi is available 24/7—if we're open, you're welcome to come in and relax inside; if we're closed, feel free to sit on the benches or the new Adirondack chairs donated by Steve Graves, our ice hockey organizer and Cal Ripken league coach. Thanks Steve! Our network is named the Monterey Library and does not require any password to use. If we're open and you're using your laptop, you can also print off that network with our wireless printer. If you don't already have the Canon driver for that printer, your computer can easily download the drivers the first time in a few minutes. We do need to remind you that using library computers, printers, or the wifi to copy and distribute copyrighted works may be an infringement of the copyright law (Title 17 US Code). In the library we have two desktops and our new laptop, for library use only, which everyone is welcome to use to get on the Internet and do what you need to do, whether it's to check your email, find directions for a trip, or research your school paper. We have no idea how many hours of use our wifi gets, but whenever you see cars parked or people sitting outside with their laptops we know it is of great value to the town.

It's that time of year to remind everyone of another great service we provide—MUSEUM PASSES! For those of you in the know, you have saved many $ over the years and seen many great exhibitions all over Berkshire County. For those of you who don't—come on in and check out the list of museums and cultural attractions that we provide passes for, to either reduce the entrance fee or in some cases do away with it all together. This year many institutions have increased the cost of what they charge for these passes, reduced the discount, or in some cases both. Not all passes come due to us at the same time so you may look at our website which is found on the Town of Monterey's site (www.montereyma.gov) for the list, but please call and ask as changes are occurring all the time. Passes are taken out just like books and are due back in four days. Sometimes they are good for a discount in the museum's gift shop as well.

Starting in May the Long Range Planning Committee will be using a variety of ways to ask all of you to fill out a short survey of library services. You will see volunteers at various places with a paper survey as well as find links to a Survey Monkey site where you can tell us how you feel about what the library is currently doing. Are you happy with what you get from the library? We are especially interested in finding out what those of you who don't use the library think. Why aren't you taking advantage of our services? We hope the survey only takes a few short minutes of your time, but if you'd like to take more time feel free to give it some thought.

If you'd like to go the next step and help us chart the course we hope to take, on **Saturday, May 14, from 10 am–noon**, we will be having a forum in the Knox Room to discuss where we are going for the next five years. We'll start by asking your vision of where you'd like the town to be in the next five years, and then see how the Monterey Library can help achieve those goals. If you like what we're doing, here's your chance to come and tell us, and if you would like something new this is also the time. Mary King, an adviser from the Massachusetts Library System, will be facilitating this forum, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Monterey Library. We'll have light refreshments and lots of visions of the future, a look at where we are now, and some discussion on how to get to where you, the people who make up the Town of Monterey, would like to see us go for the next five years. This is more than e-books and fiber—we're looking to make sure we meet the needs of the town. If you have any ideas, now is the time to come and contribute. This meeting will be open to all, library users or not, registered voters or not, primary or second homeowners, renters, and our young people. Teenagers are especially welcome to come and let us know what kind of services we can potentially provide to them. If you are looking for us to change, we need to know what you think, as we can't read minds. PLEASE COME!

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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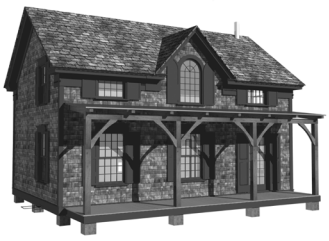

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Community Center News

Overcast skies did not dampen the spirits of the eager children participating in the annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year it was sponsored by the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee in conjunction with the Coffee Club, with the Monterey Library once again allowing the lawn to be used for the festivities. Twenty-six children participated in the event and the 144 eggs were quickly uncovered from their hiding places. Prizes were awarded for various levels of distinction, and a good time was had by all.

With regard to the renovation of the Wilson McLaughlin house, the oil tanks have recently been removed from the basement. The next steps will be to remove the small amount oil that has leaked into the soil and then to tackle the removal of other hazardous materials from the premises. Construction of a new driveway leading to the house and the garden should begin soon. That new driveway will make it much easier for those participating in the community garden. As of now, one of the eighteen plots is still available; call Ruth Green if you are interested. One of the plots will be planted by the Monterey Kindergarten and the food raised there will be donated to the local food bank. Ruth Green, who has spearheaded the creation of the community garden, offered gardening seminars to the public on soil preparation and organic vegetable gardening to get everyone in the mood to grow, as well as to raise some funds for the renovation of the property.

Once again, the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee will be sponsoring a plant sale with the proceeds going toward the community garden. It will take place on Saturday, May 28, on the grounds of the house. Many thanks to the Gould Farm members who generously gave their time to raise the seedling for the sale.

Some generous donations were recently received by the committee and are greatly appreciated. Anyone else wishing to donate to the cleanup and renovation of the property, which will ultimately become our community center, can check the website—ccmonterey.org—for more information.

Kenn Appreciation Concert Sunday, May 29

Once it became clear that the General Store would be closing, the local musicians were just as ferklemt as everyone else. The Monterey General Store had become everybody's favorite place to play. The room was so warm and cozy, the audiences so welcoming and attentive. And then, of course . . . there was Kenn.

A number of musicians want to say thanks to Kenn. And we figure a lot of other people would like to do the same. So we are presenting a big, free Kenn Appreciation Concert. The show will take place at the Monterey Meetinghouse, 7 pm, May 29—that's the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Admission is free.

The lineup is not yet complete, but we are currently expecting these performers: Vikki True, Karl Finger, Sammy Brown, Peter Poirier, Joel Schick, David Reed and Mary Knysh, Mark Caldwell, John Sellew, Tom Ingersoll.

For information, contact Joel Schick, 528-3128, joel@familygorilla.com.

— Joel Schick

Monterey Piecemakers Quilt Display at Monterey Library, May 5–28

An ad-hoc group of quilt makers came together to create a wall hanging in celebration of Monterey's 150th anniversary in 1997. Seven of them have been meeting regularly ever since to create quilts that have been raffled or auctioned in support of local causes, but also for fellowship and to share their own projects. During May, the exhibit space at the Monterey Library will display examples of the quilters' individual projects: some traditional, some contemporary. There will be lap and bed quilts, wall hangings and fiber art, as well as the original Monterey Seal quilt, borrowed from the Town Hall.

Barbara Tryon, Jan Emmons, Sally Pullen, Gige O'Connell, Marcia Doelman, Mary Kate Jordan, and Pam Johnson are the members. Working together, they have to select a design and agree on basic techniques. Separately they can opt for appliqué, piecing, or a combination and whether to do that by hand or machine, and the same for the quilting. Each quilter has her favorite techniques, and some like to add embellishment with embroidery, beading, fabric overlays, wool roving, and other objects. Color preferences vary widely—and lead to spirited discussions about choices for group quilts—so this promises to be an intriguing small show with enough variety to appeal to many tastes.

The Piecemakers will be on hand for a wrap-up reception at 10:30 am on Saturday, May 28.

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Who's Who in Monterey
Kit Patten

Kit Patten moved to Monterey from West Virginia in 2008, confident he had found just the right New England community for the next phase of his colorful life. He is a painter, a gardener, a man who would like to be outdoors all the time. On Fairview Road, where he lives with Connie Wilson, three cats, and two dogs, Kit works outdoors on his many gardens, where he has seen exciting changes in the three years he has lived there.

"I use the Lasagna Method," he says with a smile. He has just been telling me of his years as a chef and his volunteer cooking every week at the Guthrie Center in Housatonic. In gardening, lasagna involves more old newspapers and leaves than cheese and tomato sauce. Kit's gardens are in sunny open places that are soggy. To build them up he has put down layers of newspaper, leaves, grass clippings, and topsoil.

"I got half-inch potatoes the first year, and then by 2010 they were 3–4 inches long and 2 inches in diameter!" Kit grows several varieties, stores them in the cool garage, and has enough left to plant the next year. This seed saving is dear to his heart and includes some Roma Tomato seed he has been saving and planting every year since 1995, long before coming to Monterey.

Kit's earlier years in New England centered near Burlington, Vermont, where he went to college and graduated in Studio Art, also worked for years as a breakfast chef in a restaurant, which won the "Best Breakfast in Vermont" award two years running. I knew Kit was an artist and asked how he got the job as a chef. He told me the owner displayed Kit's paintings on the restaurant walls so they had become friends. Though Kit would most like to be painting or outdoors, he also loved the restaurant job for its fast pace: six orders up at a time, be quick, be good.

In his Vermont art career, Kit painted portraits, often in series. The Vermont Vanguard Press described his work as "uniquely distorted corporate portraiture," which in an art review is decidedly positive language. But when Kit and Connie left the chilly shores of Lake Champlain for their next phase, running a bed and breakfast in West Virginia, Kit switched to landscape painting.

For my birthday last month, Joe bought me one of Kit's Monterey paintings, a bright and snowy view of "Ian's House" up the road. I must say that it, too, is "uniquely distorted," and I mean that in a good way. My good fortune in receiving this gift was the direct result of determined and specific hinting within the family, a method I recommend.

Besides being a painter and a planter, Kit is certified in Thai Yoga Body Work, which he does in a treatment room at home. He and Connie first came to the Berkshires by way of a teacher-training course at Kripalu in Lenox. There they were right next to wonderful wild places to walk. They decided to leave West Virginia and for several years came to visit the Berkshires whenever they could, looking for a new home. Attending a Hootenanny in the Monterey Meetinghouse convinced them that this was the town for them.

Kit's paintings adorned the walls of the B and B in West Virginia, the restaurant in Vermont, and of course my living room here on Hupi Road, Monterey. His great plan is to paint every day and he has recently left his day job at the Berkshire Co-op Market so he can do this. His home on Fairview Road has good natural light, but Kit is outdoors in the daytime and mostly does his painting at night. He is committed to using recycled wood for his paintings and frames and finds great pickings at the Monterey Transfer Station Swap Shack, where there are often good frames and smooth pieces of wood, or panels, for his acrylic painting.

Kit Patten's diversity of life, both geographic and vocational, made my head spin. He laughed and said, "If there's any thread to my life, it is that I have always lived on rivers with Indian names: Assabet, Susquehannah, Winooski (Vermont), Cacapon (West Virginia), and the Konkapot."

— Bonner McAllester

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Monterey Library Friends

If you have not had a chance to renew your membership in the Friends of the Monterey Library, please consider doing it now. Most recently, we provided a significant financial contribution in order to help with the renovation of the historical Knox Room, which included new carpet and fresh paint. This bright and cheerful room is currently being used by patrons, youth reading and writing groups, and, in an exciting new development—Art shows!

As many of you already know, The Friends of the Monterey Library is a 401(c)(3) organization, so your donations of money, books, or wish-list items are tax deductible. You can leave your membership donation in the box at the library, drop it in the mail to P.O. Box 172, or now you can donate online. Simply log into CW MARS at http://www.cwmars.org and click on "donate" in the upper right-hand corner and you will be directed to completing information in order to donate by credit card.

During the next year, the Library Friends hope to purchase the following items for the library: audio books, museum passes, e-book readers, children's programs, adult programs, laptops with wifi capability for patrons to use at the library, and small-sized children's furniture.

You can help us by donating funds or by looking around your house to see if you already have some of these items that are in good condition that you might consider donating to the Friends.

If you are interested in sponsoring specific items or programs, we are currently spending:

$500 for audio books
$1000 for museum passes
$600 for e-book readers
$1500 for children's programs
$500 for adult programs.

Thank you so much for your support! We generally meet the first Monday evening of each month—everyone is welcome. Mark your calendars now for the annual book sale on Saturday, July 30, and check out our ongoing book sale shelf in the Knox Room—all proceeds from the sales support the Friends.

— Franny Huberman

The Art of Image Transfer Workshop May 21

Artists, scrapbookers, photographers, and picture takers will have the chance to learn a fascinating artistic technique on Saturday, May 21, when Peggy Reeves will teach the amazing process of Image Transfer in a workshop from 11 am–2 pm in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement.

Image Transfer is a popular technique used by people working in photography, collage, scrapbook arts, watercolor, and mixed media. Participants will find this three-hour hands-on workshop will open new creative pathways of expression.

The workshop is free, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. All materials will be supplied, and participants will go home with at least one completed project.

Preregistration is required. For more information and to sign up call Peggy Reeves at 413-528-2446 or email to PEARL465 @gmail.com.

Birdwalk at Bidwell House

On Sunday, May 15, Gil Schrank will lead a walk on the Bidwell House property in search of spring migrants on their way to summer nesting grounds. The group will meet at the museum on Art School Road at 8 am. Please dress for the weather, bring binoculars, water and lunch.

For more information, please call the museum at 413-528-6888 or go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. There is a suggested donation of $15 ($10 for museum members) to support upkeep of the museum and grounds.

Artists and Craftsmen Sought for Otis Library Fair

The annual Otis Library Country Fair, which will be held July 16 on the Otis Church green, seeks artists and craftsmen. Tables are $30 before June 1 and $35 after June 1. For more information, email sgraves8@yahoo.com.

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Bidwell House Museum Opens with Music of 1776

The Bidwell House, Monterey's own colonial historic site, will open for the season on Sunday, May 29, at 3 pm with a one-hour program exploring colonial-era music performed by singer/songwriter Diane Taraz. The performance will be followed by refreshments and the official opening of the museum.

In 1776 New Englanders sang in kitchens and workshops, in military camps, and in church and tavern—rowdy drinking songs, laments for lost love, marching tunes, and ballads created to spread the latest news and celebrate bold deeds.

Singer and historian Diane Taraz presents the "greatest hits" of the American Revolution, exploring the fascinating world behind the songs that rallied both sides. In colonial dress, she sings and accompanies herself on guitar and dulcimer, transporting listeners back to the turbulent time of our country's birth. A Berkshires native, Diane lives in the Boston area and performs throughout New England. According to Wanda Fischer, producer/host of "Hudson River Sampler" on WAMC-FM, "Rarely, if ever, does a new singer/songwriter literally jump out of the CD player and make me take notice, but that's exactly what happened the first time I heard Diane Taraz. Whenever I play the album on the air, the phones light up with listeners asking, 'Who's THAT?'"

To learn more about Diane Taraz or sample her music, go to her website: www.dianetaraz.com

After the performance, the museum will celebrate the opening of the season. As befits the home of the first settled minister of Township No. 1, the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell, the house and the season will be blessed by the heirs to his position, the Reverend Liz Goodman, Pastor of the Monterey Church, and the Reverend Janet McKinstry, Pastor of Tyringham Union Church. Refreshments will be served to toast the opening of the twenty-first season of the house as a museum. All are invited to join.

There is a suggested donation of $15 ($10 for members of the museum) for attendance at the concert. The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road. For more information, please call 413-528-6888 or go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Highlights of the 2011 season include a lecture series by Yale History Professor John Demos on stages of life in the 1700s and a one-month special exhibition, "Setting the Table in Early America," exploring the "Redware" pottery collection in the museum and the culture of serving and consuming meals in the early days of our country. And once again the museum is inviting the whole community to the second annual Township No. 1 Day on Saturday, July 2, to celebrate local history with fun events for all ages.

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage landmark that uses the history of its land, house, and collections to re-imagine, re-create, restore, and research colonial and early American life in Western Massachusetts. The museum is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 am to 4 pm, with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day.

Al King Helps Set "Skydivers Over Sixty" World Record

Monterey resident Al King joined an international team of 55 skydivers over the age of 60 to set a new Skydivers Over Sixty world record for largest freefall formation. The group completed the 55-person record jump on Saturday, April 16, at Skydive Elsinore in southern California.

Skydivers Over Sixty is an organization of thrill-seeking men and women over the age of 60 who enjoy jumping out of airplanes for fun. These adventurous seniors believe in the group's motto, "You don't quit skydiving because you get old; you get old because you quit skydiving!"

The new record surpassed the previous record of a 48-person formation set in January 2009. For the latest success, the group exited three aircraft flying together more than two miles above the ground. After exiting, they had about 60 seconds to complete the preplanned formation while plummeting toward the ground at speeds in excess of 120 mph before separating and opening their parachutes.

Local jumper Al King joined the team of record-setting skydivers who came from across the U.S. and around the world. Al has been skydiving since 1969 and has made more than 7,900 jumps. He skydives locally at Jumptown in Orange, Massachusetts, where he is a member of Jumptown's Board of Directors and an instuctor. Al's son, Cameron, is also an accomplished skydiver.

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"Garden Gustation"
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Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary *states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"*

Pucker Up for Pie Plant

Spring is finally upon us although the cooler temperatures are keeping spring plants to a dull roar. That includes the weeds, which is fine with me! Since the rhubarb is now poking its head out of the ground, it's given me the kick I need to use up the chopped rhubarb in the freezer before the new crop is here. Rhubarb is one of the first vegetables available in the garden in the spring. Although technically a vegetable, we use it mostly in fruity ways. We moved our rhubarb plants here from Great Barrington three years ago. We made a kitchen garden out of a composted manure pile, which couldn't have made the rhubarb any happier. The size of the inedible leaves the first three years has amazed us; I guess they are happy in their new home.

Our rhubarb plants were originally from my grandparents' garden in Connecticut. I have split them up a number of times and enjoy thinking about my grandparents when rhubarb season rolls around. My grandmother, Selma Swanson, was a wonderful Swedish baker, so I thought it only appropriate to share one of her baking recipes this month. I was part of the Great Barrington Farmers' Market when it first began and I supplemented

our veggies with some home baking. My grandmother's Rhubarb Cake is something I would make and always sell out of. Continuing a family tradition, twenty years later, my daughter, Hanna Jensen (previously the Sweetish Baker), used this same recipe when she was doing the Great Barrington Farmers' Market. What goes around comes around.

Rhubarb Cake
Underlined ingredients ours or local

350-degree oven, 9" x 13" greased aluminum baking pan
½ cup butter (room temperature)
¾ cup sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup yogurt/sour cream/sour milk (made from High Lawn Farm milk)
2 cups unbleached flour
1 tsp. soda
½ tsp. salt
2 cups of chopped rhubarb stalks, cut into ½" pieces

Cream butter and sugar in stand mixer. Add egg and vanilla and mix well. Mix flour, soda, and salt together in separate bowl. Add the flour mixture alternately with the yogurt, the flour in thirds and the yogurt in halves until well blended. Add the chopped rhubarb and mix thoroughly. Use a rubber spatula and spread the cake batter into a greased 9 x 13" aluminum baking pan.

Topping
½ cup brown sugar
¼ cup butter, chilled
¼ tsp. cinnamon

Cut butter into brown sugar and cinnamon until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over cake batter and bake for 35–40 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean. Enjoy warm or at room temperature.

Thanks to those of you who have responded. It's been wonderful getting the feedback.

I look forward to hearing more of your ideas and recipes.

Just thought I'd plant a seed here (pun intended) . . . What are you going to make with your ASPARAGUS???

— Wendy G. Jensen
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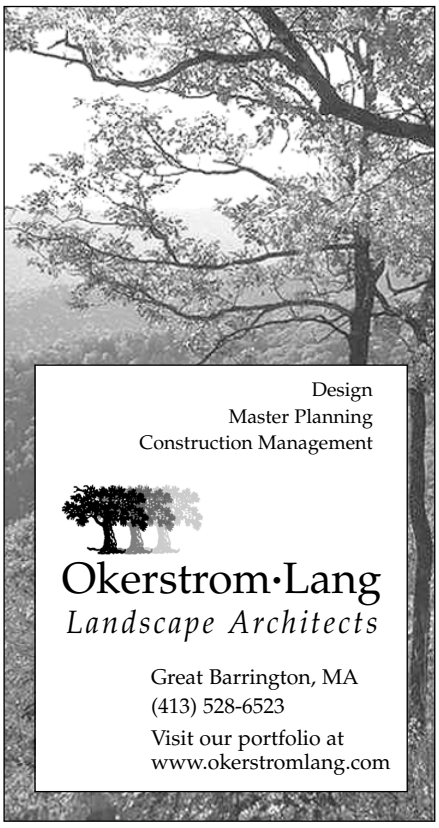


Somebody's Lying

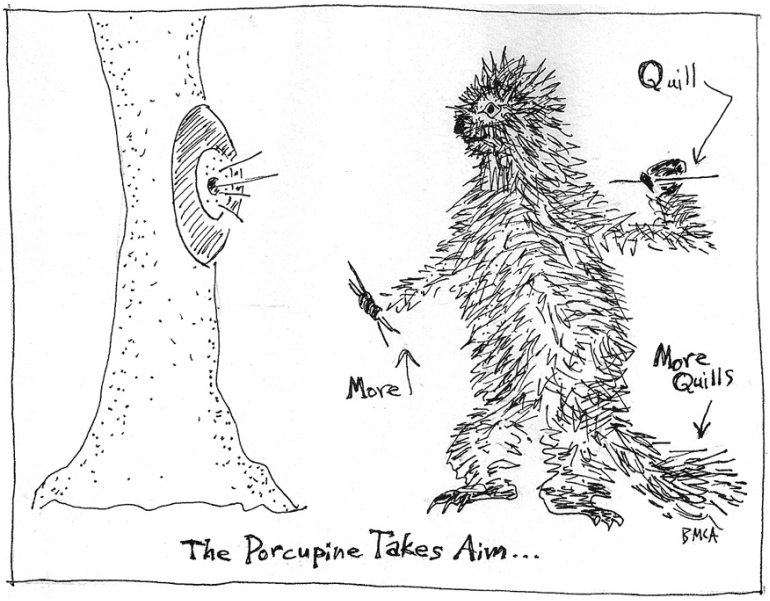
"I was mistaken. I was misled. I was lying. I misspoke. I'm not sure. It could have been like this. (Or maybe not.)"

Years ago we watched the famous Akira Kurasawa film Rashomon, in which the same exciting story is told four different ways by four people who were present. There is a murder, a rape, a robbery. Or maybe not. Maybe it was an honorable suicide, a love affair, and a lucky find. Our young daughters saw it through and one said, at the end, "Somebody's lying."

She had that enviable confidence that there is truth and there could be accuracy. Either the bandit skulked through the woods and set upon the wealthy couple and did evil deeds to them, or not. If only everyone present had told the same tale, we would know what happened, most likely, but the movie leaves you not knowing. Each character paints herself or himself in the best possible light so at the end all you can really say is they couldn't ALL be good guys, in fact, hey, maybe this is the message. Much as we'd like to be brave and honorable every time, odds are we'll have to tweak the story to make it look like that.

Tweaked stories: Are they "lies"? Understandable exaggerations? Lately we have encountered a few in the Natural History Department here in the family library. It's not murder and pillage so much as misinformation. See what you think.

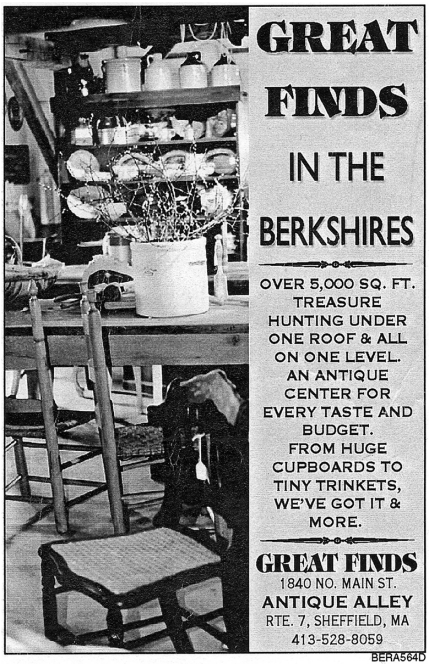
Respected, published, oft-quoted outdoors folks have written about the marvelous North American beaver, Castor canadensis. There is a lot to wonder about. How do they build those lodges out in the middle of the pond? Three out of five fine authors got it wrong, two got it right. We wouldn't have known which was which if we hadn't been lucky a few years back, observers on a genuine beaver house-building scene.



Wrong story: The beavers build a dam and make a nice big pond. Then they swim out to the middle and drop a lot of heavy, waterlogged wood that sinks to the bottom, piles up, and finally reaches pond surface level. Then they build an oval wall, like a coral atoll made of wood and mud. They bring just the right sticks, stand them up and arch them over to make a sort of wigwam. They slap mud on this, make a dry bed inside, create (how, when??) underwater entrances, and there you have it.

Right story: The beavers start a little pond by damming a brook. At first it is about the size of your living room. It gets deeper and broader and one day it is more like your backyard. Then they start making a pile of sticks and mud on one edge. Pile gets bigger, and so does the dam as they keep working on both. Pretty soon the pond is bigger than your yard and floods around behind the growing pile of mud and such. After a little more work the pond is way around back of this, making a broad safe moat everywhere. The pile is now solid and big, way up higher than the surface of the pond.

The beaver dives down beside the pile and starts cutting a hole in all that mud and sticks, making a tunnel that starts under water and goes upward. Then the beaver chews out a cave inside, above the water level, leaving a shelf for sitting on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and a thick wall and ceiling all around. That's it.

Here is another one. Wrong: Porcupines can shoot their quills at you, like darts. How do we think this, or think we know it? Someone told us. Someone told them. Way back in the beginning someone's dog was barking at a porcupine, kind of close up, and suddenly there was a faceful of quills. No one saw any contact, so there must have been shooting or flinging involved.

Right: The dog got too close. The porcupine was tucking its head down to be safe, rump toward the barking dog, short quilly tail slinging back and forth. Smack, tail connects with dog face, quills anchor in skin and yank loose from original owner. The quills are brilliantly designed to do this, with little barbs along the tip of the business end. These barbs lie close to the shaft until they suddenly get warm and moist, then they curl out from the shaft. Those who have pulled quills from a dog know it takes pliers and hurts the dog. A face full of steel sewing needles would be much easier to remove because they have no barbs and would slide right out.

Here is another one, from a best-selling novelist who wrote about the Indians putting up their tipis on the Great Plains. Wrong: The women lean all the poles together, tie them at the top, and then shinny up one of them hauling the buffalo-hide cover up behind. In our family we have made a few tipis. Fortunately, we read a different book and knew enough to leave the last pole lying on the ground. Right: You tie the top of the tipi cover near the top end of this "lifting pole," gather the rest of the cover in a long accordion-like bundle along the pole, and set the whole thing in place up against the other poles. Then spread the cover around the whole tipi. This cover is heavy, even using canvas like we do these days. Shinny up the pole, with a buffalo-hide cover . . . clutched in teeth? I dunno. It is mighty tempting to say, "Somebody's lying." It certainly is hard to finish the book, James Michener's Centennial, without doubting everything in it. Also everything else he ever wrote.

People say, "Aw, come on. Cut him a little slack! Haven't you ever made a mistake?" Well, of course. Only, which version is slack, which to cut? These are tough choices to make if you weren't there to see for yourself, as with the tipis or the beaver lodge. Or you were there but you blinked just as your dog connected with the porcupine.

My advice: Don't believe anything, even if you saw it yourself. (Especially!) But don't quit reading good fiction, either. Just remember the line may be thinly drawn, whether somebody is lying or not.

— Bonner McAllester

The Tribe of Old Women

Mary Kate Jordan's photo essay "The Tribe of Old Women" is being published this month in the spring issue of Crone magazine. According to Crone editor Anne Newkirk Niven, the article "connects eldering women with the rooted majesty of the Ring of Brodgar on the Orkney Islands, and challenges us to lives of passion and strength."

Copies of the magazine are available at bbimedia.com, both by subscription and as single-issue purchase.

Also, a chapter of the Tribe of Wise Old Women is forming in the Berkshires now. Contact Mary Kate at 528-5557 for information about their purpose, goals, and your options for charter membership.

Otis Arts Festival Seeks Artists

The Otis Cultural Council invites artists and craftspeople for the Fourth Annual Otis Arts Festival, Saturday, July 23, 9 am–3 pm, at Farmington River Elementary School, Otis. Entry fee $20 (Otis residents), $25 (non–Otis resident). Applications available online at www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil, or at the Otis Town Hall. For info, email Otiscc@hotmail.com.

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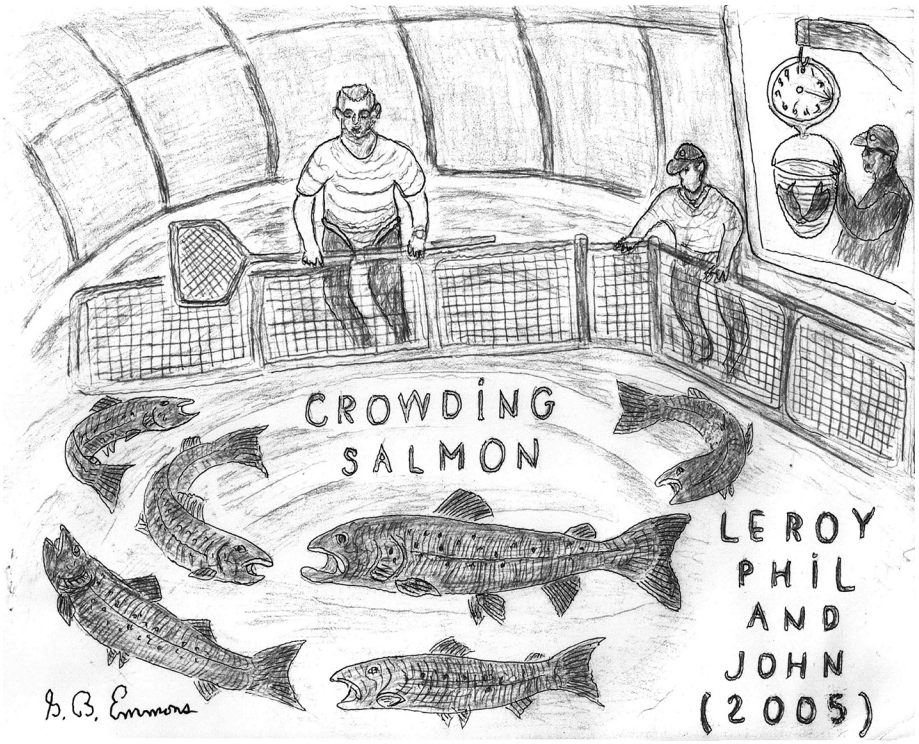
Berkshire Hatchery Currents and a Bend in the River

The Hatchery Fish Hatchery is a historic landmark, a cold-water fishery where trout and salmon are raised in circular pools filled by the force of gravity with fresh flowing water (at the rate of 300 gallons a minute) from a picturesque mountainside aquifer. The Hatchery driveway is located on Hatchery Road in New Marlborough (the Monterey end is called River Road) at a bend of the Konkapot River.

In 2005, Hatchery Road just above the Hatchery driveway was damaged by flooding and then condemned as unsafe; it has remained closed ever since, making the entrance to the Hatchery both difficult and unsightly. This year the Town of New Marlboro was in contact with US Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and expected the funding needed for repairs to be available, and Berkshire Engineering was hired to obtain the permits so the work could begin early this summer. Now it has been learned that the funding may not materialize due to budget reductions that might affect this project.

The Town of New Marlborough and The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation Board Of Directors ask that you call or write Senator John Kerry and Senator Scott Brown to tell them how important this road is to both Monterey and New Marlborough, which each have about 75 acres of land along the Konkapot River that meet at the Hatchery driveway. You can reach Senator Kerry at 617-565-851 or by mail at 1 Bowdoin Square, 10th floor, Boston, MA 02114; his website is http://kerry.senate.gov. You can reach Senator Scott Brown at 617-565-3170 or by mail at 15 Sudbury Street, 2400 JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203. His website is http scott brown.senate.gov.



The Berkshire Hatchery Board has just announced an extensive spring, summer, and autumn program of public events, including the following:

- seven fishing derbies for children twelve years or younger;
- teenager (ages thirteen to nineteen) fishing derbies along the Konkapot, Williams, and Farmington Rivers, coordinated from this facility;
- a fundraising Lobster Fest on August 28 that usually draws at least a hundred and fifty visitors.

Based upon last year's seasonal visitors, this year we will welcome about eight hundred visitors from far and wide, even though the entrance is hard to find and makes a poor lasting impression.

Thank you for getting involved to pay tribute to the Berkshire Hatchery, whose hardworking volunteers over the years have left a lasting legacy to keep the waters flowing and the fish swimming.

— George B. Emmons

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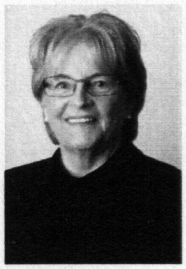
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April Wildlife Report

From ice on the lakes to blooming coltsfoot and red maples, April had it all this year. Intrepid walkers on April 23 were up on the Land Trust Trail in the rain, with half an inch of new snow on the ground. What a lucky thing! We were able to see springtime tracks from strutting tom turkeys, dragging their glorious wing tips on the ground as they paraded around the parking lot. We could just picture their impressive tails fanned out. We could also see that some members of the group were more interested in scratching for breakfast: acorns, worms, anything good.

In the last days of March, Maureen Regan reported a great blue heron flying over the ice-covered lake and an otter regularly visiting the icy sunning spots around Brewer Pond. Stephen Rose watched an otter on the ice on Lake Buel about this time, too.

By April 11, with the ice breaking up on Buel, Frank and Nancy Ashen were seeing common mergansers and returning geese. Sue Protheroe from the Lake Buel area saw the mergansers, also heard the song sparrows singing.

In mid-April Lois and Michael Storch were headed home on Tyringham Road and saw a lone bear cub crossing. They stopped, but didn't see any adult following, so maybe the parent had already gone across. This cub was the size of a big dog, such as a German shepherd, and "well-rounded."

The news from the Fish Hatchery comes thanks to George Emmons, who wrote to say that on April 13 spotted salamanders were laying eggs there. Also a coyote had been visiting near the buildings.

On April 24, Judy Kamenstein sent in news and a photo of a dramatic skull with excellent teeth, found near her home on Woodland Road, about 10 feet from Lake Garfield. It is about 4 inches long and is clearly canine: dog? large fox? medium coyote? The side and back views show this is a dedicated meat-eater, adapted to cutting bones and chunks for quick swallowing. No pausing to chew, no grinding molars like us or raccoons.

Young beavers are on the move, the two-year olds chased out of their childhood ponds to make room for the younger and brand-new babies. The new explorers are looking for pond sites with a good food supply. They will be building soon. One is currently investigating the small pond near Cora Baker's house on Hupi Road, leaving a small fresh stump and nibbled twigs.

Breaking news from Lake Buel as we go to press: Maureen Regan writes of a bald eagle, also an osprey making a successful dive for a fish.

T. S. Eliot, famous for pronouncing April to be the "cruellest" month did not live in Monterey! We started with lots of snow and now the trilliums are blooming all over town and the goldfinches have gone to gold on River Road, says Will Marsh. Not too cruel, I think.

Thanks for your notes and calls. Keep them coming: 413-528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net.

— Bonner McAllester

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Book by Otis Photojournalist

With one foot in the present and another foot firmly rooted in the past, award-winning photojournalist John Stanmeyer created an uninhibited and timeless reportage through one of the most basic tools, a plastic-lensed Holga. The result is the newly released *Island of the Spirits* (hardback, 144 pages), a collection of deeply layered images witnessed, understood, and explained in full by few, yet practiced by millions. The photographs capture practices from decades past, transcending the temporal as they live on today and into the future.

Stanmeyer spent five years living in Bali and working on this book, a study of a culture that has retained much of its practices despite the influence of foreigners. Beyond the Eat, Pray, Love perspective of Tu population, the Balinese have held strongly to their ancestral beliefs and their daily practice of Hindu-based worshipping of their gods and of their natural environment. For them, spirits are everywhere.

Stanmeyer is a founding member of the prestigious VII photo agency and is the recipient of the Robert Capa Gold Medal, Magazine Photographer of the Year (three times), as well as numerous World Press awards. He moved to the Berkshires two years ago and now calls home a farm in Otis, where he lives with his wife, Anastasia, and their three children.

An exhibition of limited-edition, signed photographs from Island of the Spirits will open Memorial Day weekend, May 28–30, at the Stanmeyer Gallery, 1286 Monterey Road in Otis, Massachusetts. For more information, contact Anastasia Stanmeyer at 413-429-5504 or anastasia@stanmeyer.com.

SUSAN M. SMITH
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Monterey, Summer 1948

To the Editor:

I was so pleased to see in the August 2010 Monterey News the group photo of the town of Monterey and Governor Bradford on the church steps! I was there when it was taken. We brought our mare down for Mrs. Lutz to ride. The mare was a Tennessee Walker and Morgan mix, and her real name was Miss Hollyhocks—we just called her Missy.

Also I noticed a couple of mistakes—the black gentleman standing beside Missy was Mr. Persig, not Stedman as you called him. Perhaps the young man beside him was Stedman—I don't remember that for sure.

I remember the day vividly and am so glad you printed the photo.

— Louise Ward Henry

The Dog Park

To the Editor:

I am writing to update people about the status of the dog park, and to rebut various perceptions created in last month's article submitted by the ZBA Chairman Robert Lazzarini.

After more than 80 people voted in favor of creating a dog park at last year's annual town meeting, the Dog Park Committee began working with the Select Board and the Parks Commission, and developed a set of rules and regulations for the safe and orderly operation of a dog park facility. The recommended location is on an underutilized town resource, the land surrounding the Wilson-McLaughlin House donated to the town in Edith Wilson's will, which contains over 26 acres of land available for town recreational use. It is an ideal location, lightly sloped, with parking available off road, and a partial fence which could be used to reduce the cost of the enclosure.

The area sits in a zoning district which allows municipal recreational uses by the Town "as of right" with no need for a special permit. Unfortunately, however, when the Town obtained a special permit in 2010 for the conversion of the residential structure into a community building, the ZBA, which issues such permits, chose to impose significant changes to the applicable zoning of this parcel. This was unknown to most people in town, and in the opinion of this writer was done illegally and amounted to an abuse of discretion by the ZBA.

Even though municipal recreational uses are allowed as of right under the zoning bylaws for this property (that means with no special permit from the ZBA), the ZBA decided that no other recreational uses for this property aside from the community house and a community garden would be allowed without their permission within 600 feet around the community house. This essentially prohibited recreation on a large open section of the property donated to the town by Edith Wilson ***for recreational purposes***. Not only was this restriction contrary to the donative intent of Edith Wilson, and the clear provisions of the Town zoning bylaw, it actually was imposed illegally without following proper procedure, as I will explain below.

Due to the restriction in the 2010 special permit for the structure, Town Counsel recommended to the Select Board that they apply for a new special permit for the dog park. At this first hearing, Chairman Lazzarini stated the restriction against any other municipal uses of the Wilson McLaughlin property was imposed after the ZBA voted to grant the 2010 permit, without a discussion or vote of the Board at a hearing. He stated that after the 2010 meeting was concluded he wrote the decision and decided on his own to add this restriction because he was worried that the Town might choose to build a salt shed or other maintenance structure on the property. He also said he was not even sure if the other members of the ZBA realized he added this restriction when they signed the 2010 decision.

Our committee collected 26 letters and emails from Town residents in favor of the dog park and submitted them at this January hearing. However, at this hearing the Chairman stated that the Town *did not need a special permit* since the dog park was a municipal recreational use allowed as of right by the zoning bylaws. Indeed, he reported that after consulting with counsel he had been advised that the only change required was a change in the wording of the original permit to remove the prohibition on other municipal uses of the property. The Select Board would then be free to construct and operate the facility with any and all restrictions necessary and appropriate. The ZBA therefore voted that they had no jurisdiction over the dog park application since it was an "as of right" use of the property. They recommended that the Select Board return with a new application which simply asked the ZBA to eliminate the restrictions that were contrary to the zoning by-laws.

The Select Board followed their advice and returned with a new application to remove the restriction. And here is where the proceedings turned *Kafkaesque*. First the ZBA refused to consider the 26 letters of support for the dog park, stating simply that they related to a different permit application! So they began the hearing by disenfranchising a number of residents from participating in the process. After listening to three opponents, the Board decided not to remove the restriction (which

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was never fully debated or voted on at a ZBA meeting). Incredibly, in a U-turn from their decision two months ago that they had no jurisdiction to consider an as of right municipal recreational use, they then voted to deny a permit for a dog park.

The article from the ZBA Chairman in last month's edition urged that the dog park be constructed on other Town property (where this could happen was not suggested). They urged that comprehensive rules be developed (in fact these rules exist and were submitted to them). Unfortunately we have been left with no other option than to appeal the ZBA's March decision to the Courts. This process is likely to take a long time. So, for the time being the residents will not have use of the facility they voted for.

— Charles J. Ferris

To the Editor:

Mr. Ferris has written an interesting letter. He's eager to get a dog park, but this has carried over into shaping a story of the ZBA purposefully trying to thwart the dog park. Wendy and I were at both hearings, and have a very different impression of what transpired. The hearings were unusual, but the situation with the Wilson-McLaughlin House is unusual, in that there is both a will and an existing Special Permit that provide directions and conditions to what can happen there. I believe the ZBA has been earnestly trying to find it's way through those constraints.

Mr. Ferris makes too much of the board's treatment of the supportive emails received with the January application, and is dismissive of the signed letters with objections. In fact, Mr. Lazzarini did acknowledge the emails. Mr. Ferris says that "they began the hearing by disenfranchising . . . residents" as though this was the intention of the ZBA. A quick reading of the ZBA minutes (available through the town website) from 3/22/11 will show this to be a gross exaggeration.

There were many questions raised, and some objections stated, by the abutters, of which I am one. The Select Board purposefully wanted this to go back through the ZBA so the abutters would have a formal opportunity to attend and be heard (see Select Board minutes from 1/31/11), so our thoughts on the matter are significant. I believe all the abutters are opposed to establishing the park there, and for varied, specific reasons. Should the town try to establish something next to Mr. Ferris's property, he would certainly want to be heard.

Mr. Ferris conflates two issues. The existing Special Permit has a condition which states, "No other municipal uses will be allowed." Mr. Ferris writes that the ZBA has decided that ". . . no other recreational uses will be allowed within 600 feet around the community center." The ZBA absolutely made no such decision. Even the reference to "600 feet" is erroneous. This comes from Edith Wilson's will, in which she defined two areas of the property, one within a 600-foot radius from the northern point of the property (essentially the junction of Rt. 23 and New Marlboro Rd.), and the second the remaining area outside of that arc. She defined acceptable uses for each area. The first portion, defined in her will as the area for the community center, includes her house, and some areas north and south of the house. The second area, the bulk of the property, is set aside primarily for recreational purposes. The dog park as proposed straddles this arc. (In a rural area such as this, it would be interesting to know what constitutes sufficient "utilization," beyond being maintained as open space.)

There was some general agreement (though not without dissent) that the dog park is a valid recreational use, and as such would conform to both usage areas in Ms. Wilson's will. Recreational use is simply not the issue. Perhaps Mr. Ferris' eagerness to make his case has led to some leeway in his understanding of some of the details.

When I reviewed the application for approval of a dog park filed at the Town Hall prior to the hearing, I found that it contained almost no concrete information about the project. There was a sketch of a small portion of the property to show the approximate location of the fence, but no information on the height or type of fence; no reference to parking and access, lighting, potential daily traffic; no rules of governance for noise or resolution of conflicts, etc. The board could hardly have granted the additional use without this information. We live here and these are important questions with real impact on our lives. Tenants in Bally Gally would be living very close indeed to the south fence of the dog park. I do not know who wrote in support of the dog park but I do know that they do not live adjacent to the property where it is proposed. Wendy and I had to go through a Special Permit application for our work buildings, and the information required needed a substantial packet of site and design information, as it should. I recognize that the town voted the money for the fencing, but that was certainly not a carte blanche over the whole planning process.

Wendy and I have visited the dog park at French Park in North Egremont. It's a nice facility, and I can understand why people would like one closer. But it doesn't work to simply mimic that facility at the Wilson-McLaughlin property. Except for one boundary in the wetland area, the abutters to the W-L property are year round residents, within sight and sound of the park. The French Park facility really stands by itself. There are abutters across the road, but they're up long, wooded driveways, and out of sight, even in the late winter when we visited.

I think that Mr. Ferris' letter does more to appeal to people's emotions, and perhaps wishfully (on his part) to some sense of outrage, than it does to help find a path forward. Now he seeks redress through a lawsuit against the ZBA. His actions seem a poor route for a cooperative community interest proposed to be sited at the town's community center.

— Stephen Moore

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Telecommunications Bylaw

To the Editor:

The Personal Wireless Bylaw Amendment (2010) is not appropriate for cell coverage in Monterey, leaving out Industry responsibilities and ignoring science recommendations for safe proximities to towers. Richard Comi, an expert in telecommunications bylaws, reports bylaws often fail to balance powers between industry and public needs because of misconceptions.

Comi clarifies misconceptions regarding "need," "clear line of sight," and "co-location." Tower applicants must prove "need," not just a desired objective, otherwise town officials cannot make informed decisions. Under law (47 USC 332(c)) industry's provable "needs" are the test, not its desires. Carriers insist on "clear line of sight" for workable antennas. However, obstructions are more matters of cost and convenience rather than functionality and reliability. Existing sites can often be modified to fix "gaps" in service. Nothing in federal law prohibits towns from prohibiting new towers when existing tower sites are available. Policies must place the burden of proof on carriers that no workable "co-location" exists.

Carriers don't like our Mt. Wilcox site due to terrain and state permit processes, but increasing the overlay district to all of Monterey isn't the answer. Mt. Wilcox was viable for 37 antennas installed there. With burden of proof of hardship on the industry, carriers may opt to argue against sites, suggesting others. However, this amendment unwisely shifts the burden of proof to the town to reject sites impacting town character, quality of life, property values, and protected wildlife.

The amendment limits setbacks to 600 feet, despite recent trends including larger setbacks, i.e. Hempstead, MA, at 1500 feet. Comi recommends larger setbacks and the burden on industry to prove hardship, as towns are entitled to limit sites options due to potential risks. Indeed there are proven dose relationships between illness and cell tower proximity (Daniel Foggo, "Cancer Clusters at Phone Masts," The Sunday Times (UK), April 22, 2007). Some are concerned increased setbacks reduce available sites, but without a Wireless Masterplan, we have no idea how much of Monterey's 17,000 acres are needed and for how many towers for maximum coverage. Would you like a tower next to your home, while neighbors earn annual revenues up to $100,000, without guarantees of safety or that coverage would not be better somewhere else?

Another misconception is that most wireless facilities are in place with little need for many more. The industry itself acknowledges that third (and fourth) generation technology needs 2–3 times the current number of sites, equaling several hundred thousand new facilities in 3–5 years. Carriers, seeking a competitive edge with consumers using phones in cars on our roads, have everything to gain with this amendment, namely the revenue near $90,000–100,000 for each tower, monthly.

VOTE "NO" and insist on a revote with adjustments:

1. All personal wireless service, including nodes and repeaters, require permits.
2. Setbacks at 1500 feet.
3. Emission testing includes direct line of sight and not merely base testing where measurements are lower.
4. Emission compliance and complaint protocols include testing responsibility, mitigation time frames, and fees.
5. Residents are notified of applications in a timely manner.

— Nancy Marcus

Attracting Native Pollinators

A few years ago I tried my hand at keeping bees. Things seemed to go alright that first season, but when I opened the hive the next spring all the poor things were dead. What went wrong is still something of a mystery. The winter weather had been very weird, even by current weird standards—sixty degrees in early January and torrential rain followed by wicked cold. Bees suffer in the winter from dampness more than cold, so that could have been a contributing factor. Then again, the hive could have been infested by varroa mites, miserable parasites that can destroy even a healthy hive. Honeybees range up to three miles from their hive in search of nectar and pollen, so perhaps some contact with pesticides proved fatal. I never did figure it out. >

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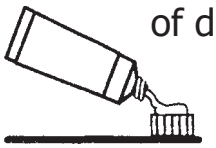

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One thing about the whole experience impressed me above all else—even with a resident honeybee hive, the most prevalent bees in my garden that summer were actually the native species. I had planted all kinds of flowers that were supposed to provide good food for the honeybees, and these plants drew plenty of bee, wasp, and pollinating fly visitors from around the neighborhood.

Honey isn't high on my list of sweeteners—all right, it's too high in calories—so the reason to keep the honeybee hive was for their pollinating prowess. I began to wonder what the point was in trying so hard to keep these little invaders happy when the local pollinators seemed to like my garden even more and involved a lot less work.

A lot of great information about native pollinators has found its way onto my desk since then and changed my thinking completely about native plants in the process. Of course there is plenty of information about invasive plants and the disruption they cause to our local biological communities. Non-native invasives have spread so rapidly and displaced native plants so effectively that some parts of the Northeast forest no longer resemble their original plant communities at all. Keeping invasives out of the garden has long been my goal but somehow, inexplicably, I never quite saw the significance of using native plants instead. Foreign but noninvasive plants seemed good enough. Until now.

Native plants—meaning the flora that were here before Europeans hit the beaches—and native insects have a very precise relationship to each other. It is fairly easy to attract native butterflies, moths, bees, and wasps (good wasps—seriously) to one's garden with a variety of fragrant and nectar-laden plants. Providing the right plants for these insects to lay eggs and ensure the next generation's survival is another thing entirely. Millions of years of simultaneous evolution mean that a butterfly needs one plant, and often one plant only, to lay its eggs in. The bee or butterfly can be fooled into using some other plant for this purpose, but its offspring will either starve or be poisoned by the wrong host plant. The endangered Karner Blue butterfly is a good example. Karner Blues must have the native eastern lupine, Lupinus perennis, as the host for their larva. The more common Russell hybrid lupines might look like the right host plants, but they are not, and the Karner Blues will not mature into new butterflies if mom makes that mistake.

Now we humans tend to look at these matters from a predominantly human perspective. The simple but unflattering truth is that most people find it hard to care about something that does not seem to affect them directly. I share this trait at times, especially in May when the infernal black flies start to swarm and deliver winter's final head slap. What purpose can they possibly serve? The same may be said of, say, Karner Blue butterflies. What difference does it make if they go extinct? The answer is, all the difference in the world. For cognitive creatures we have the most amazing blind spot about species survival and biodiversity—too many people think that humans can survive on this planet even if most of the other animals and plants disappear. Just the opposite is true, and one obvious reason is that many of our food crops depend on insect pollinators to produce a harvest. If there is one point that you take away from these musings, remember that preserving what's left of our world's diversity of plants and animals is the only way we can persist as a species.

Back to earth—Berkshire County earth, to be specific. We have an amazing resource here in South County that can help us restore some of the biodiversity of our own region. I'm referring to Project Native in Housatonic. Over 90 percent of the plants grown in their nursery are native to Berkshire County. It couldn't be easier to get native plants back into our gardens. They have done the research that would take me ages to duplicate, so I'm using their plant lists and seeds (and plants) as a touchstone for designing the garden this year. This doesn't mean that all my existing plants will get the heave-ho. But over time it is possible for me and any gardener to increase a garden's ability to support native insects. In doing so, my vegetable yields will improve and fewer nasty bugs will hang around to eat my squash and cucumbers because their natural predators will find a home in my garden.

I have deliberately avoided a list of plants to focus on, because to recommend just a few plants would be to miss the point. The more variety you can cram into your garden, the better. Who knows what kind of weather we'll have this summer, what kind of pests might infest our gardens, or what kind of bees, birds and butterflies we might be able to attract. With diversity as the main objective, we can be ready for anything. Some other time it might be helpful to write about specific plants and animals—for now the image of a garden filled with many different native species growing in a balanced community is motivation enough for me to try something new.

— Ruth Green

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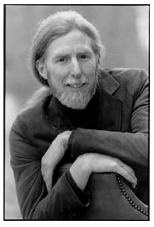

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Remembering Jana Shepard

My mother, Georgianna "Jana" Burch Shepard, died on Monday, April 4, in The Cliffs at Eagle Rock in West Orange, N.J. A retired social worker and college professor, Jana Shepard was a longtime Monterey summer resident.

My mother was born in New York City in 1928 to Carl Burch and Olive Peterson Burch. She grew up in the city but her experiences at Monterey fostered a love of nature and the outdoors. She first came to Monterey in 1931 when her grandfather, Herbert Peterson, built a cottage on Lake Garfield in the area that came to be known as The Elephant Rock Community.

In 1997, the Town of Monterey published Monterey – A Local History in celebration of the town's sesquicentennial anniversary. Jana Shepard wrote a section of this book titled "Cottage Life on Lake Garfield," in which she revealed how Monterey became central in her life:

"During the Depression my mother purchased the property from her father with the understanding that it would be his home for the rest of his life. It was a happy decision for me: I was able to spend the spring and fall there with my grandfather, my mother came up weekends on the train, and of course we spent the entire summer there. My father had died when I was four years old, and my mother and I lived in a city apartment after that. It was heavenly

to be at the cottage on beautiful Lake Garfield. Ever since then it has been my real home.

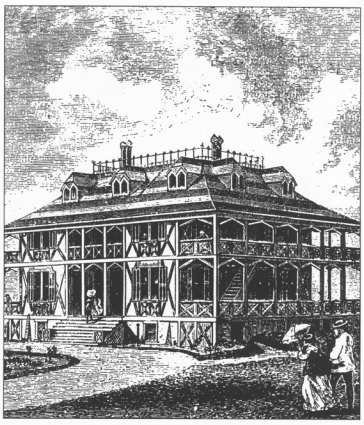
"In coming to our newly built cottage in 1931, our main purpose was to get back to nature and live simply. My grandfather had a leather satchel of huge wrenches and other tools because he felt that he was too far in the wilderness to expect much help from repairmen. We had no electricity until 1947, and there was heavy work to be done. My father built stone steps down to the lake, and some trees had to be taken down. We carried pails of water from our shallow well and springs. Most bathing took place in the lake, although I remember some pretty cold baths in a galvanized tin tub in front of the house. I considered our outhouse, with a half-moon in the door, to be absolutely charming. . . . Each morning we gathered together a host of kerosene lamps to be cleaned and readied for another evening of reading and card-playing."

In the 1990s, Jana Shepard wrote an article for Monterey News in which she reminisced about Julius Miner, who for many years ran the General Store with his brother Lester. "Somehow Julius sensed in me a fellow naturalist, one who could share his favorite pastime of observing plants and animals. When I entered the store he would exclaim, 'Georgianna! I have a butterfly for you!' Then he would hunt behind the various cans and jars until the perfect specimen was found." "As a child," she continued, "I felt certain that the main objective of Julius' life was not to make money. Instead he was there to enjoy himself to the fullest and make others happy."

One summer, when my mother was a teenager, a family from New York City rented the log cabin a few doors down from her grandfather's place, bringing two teenage boys. My mother, Alan Lindsay, and Bob Harris became great friends. Later, Alan would introduce Jana to his school chum, Royal Shepard, Jr., at a party in the Morningside Heights area near Columbia University. She was 15 years old.

My mother majored in English at Swarthmore College. She dated Roy Shepard while in college and in 1949 they were married. While in college, my mother organized a "volunteer bureau" and, in her words, decided to "find out what I could 'do' for other people."

She went on to earn a master's degree in social work from Columbia University while my father attended Union Theological Seminary and became a United Church of Christ minister. Together they raised four children and lived in small towns in Nebraska and Wisconsin, as well as Sacramento, Calif., and Duluth, Minn.



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In the 1960s, my mother was a child welfare services supervisor in Sacramento and handled many challenging cases in the area of adoptions and foster care. Later she wrote that she held three values as "most cogent" in her personal and professional life: the importance of each individual, freedom to practice self-determination, and the right to the least restrictive environment. When a caseworker was about to move five children to foster care because the family home was overrun with cockroaches, she intervened and brought in an exterminator instead. "I could not allow five children to leave the only home they had ever known because of insects."

She moved to Duluth in 1971, where she was child welfare services supervisor for Douglas County, Wis. She transitioned to academia, first teaching in the social work program at the University of Wisconsin in Superior and then serving as program director.

In 1983, Jana and Roy Shepard moved back East and she was associate director of fieldwork at Fordham University's social work program. She then became chairman of the social work program at SUNY College at Brockport.

Despite all these moves, my parents managed to come back to Monterey many summers, even when they lived in California. In 1992, they retired and moved to my father's hometown of Montclair, N.J. They were delighted to make the old cottage at Lake Garfield their second home.

Like her own mother, Olive Burch Davis, Jana Shepard immersed herself in volunteer activities throughout her life and always seemed to be "in charge" of at least one organization. In 1995, when the artist Edith Wilson died, leaving her house and land to the Town of Monterey, my mother joined the board that investigated how the property might best be used. In 2000, she became president of the Monterey Historical Society, stepping down in 2004 when she learned that she had Alzheimer's disease.

Caring, practical, my mother was always ready to help and offer advice but left it up to us, the recipients, to make up our own minds. The lessons she learned from Herbert Peterson, Julius Miner, and others at Monterey stayed with her throughout her life.

Jana Shepard is survived by her husband; her children, Alice Roth of Denville, N.J., and husband, Donald; Melanie Shepard of Duluth, Minn., and husband, Alan Netland; Roy Shepard of West Orange, N.J.; and Elizabeth Shepard of Montclair, N.J.. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Rosalind Roth; Nick and Sophie Netland; and Callandra, Perry, and Bennett Shepard.

A memorial celebration will be held on July 2 at 1:30 pm at Monterey United Church of Christ. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Monterey Church or to The Cliffs at Eagle Rock, 707 Eagle Rock Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052. For the Cliffs, please write in the memo area: Angel Fund.

— Alice Shepard Roth

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Remembering Joseph Lanoue

Joseph E. Lanoue, 95, of Main Road, Monterey, died on Wednesday, March 30 at Fairview Hospital. He was born in East Hawley, MA, on December 16, 1912, son of Ambrose and Helen Martin Lanoue. He worked as a crane operator for Lane Construction, Westfield, retiring after twenty years; he then worked as a crane operator for area construction companies. He was also a gunsmith, raised honeybees, grafted apple trees, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He cut and split all his own firewood all his life until 2008.

Joseph's wife, the former Janice Howes, predeceased him on June 21,1991. He leaves two sons, Lanny and his wife, Lynn, of Monterey, and Joseph of South Dakota; and two daughters, Jan Robinson and her husband, Jim, of Norwich, NY, and Gail Heath and her husband, Kenneth R. Sr, of Monterey; one sister, Irene Lively, of Shelburne Falls; twelve grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and four great great grandchildren. Besides his wife, Joseph was predeceased by a son James and daughter Lindsay, a grandson Robert, and a granddaughter Kristine Jan Heath.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall.

Every Sunday: Slow-pitch Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park. Everyone welcome.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

May 5–May 28: Monterey Piecemakers Quilt Exhibit, Monterey Library. See p. 11.

Saturday, May 7: Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 am, Monterey Firehouse.

Tuesday, May 10: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, May 14: Forum to discuss ideas for desired library services for next five years, 10 am–noon, Monterey Library. Everyone welcome. See p. 10.

Sunday, May 15: Spring Migration Birdwalk led by Gil Schrank, 8 am; meet at Bidwell House Museum. $15, members $10. See p. 13.

Wednesday, May 18: Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Meetinghouse. See p. 9.

Saturday, May 21:

Meeting to explore options for future of Monterey General Store; 3 pm, Meetinghouse basement. See p. 9.

Art of Image Transfer Workshop with Peggy Reeves, 11 am–2 pm, Meetinghouse basement. Preregistration required, 413-528-2446. See p. 13.

Sunday, May 22: Concert by Yevgeny Kutik, violinist, Timothy Bozarth, pianist, and the Elektra Ensemble to benefit Ferris-Burtis Foundation, 4 pm, Sandisfield Arts Center.

Monday, May 23: Adult reading group, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library.

Tuesday, May 24: CHP Free Health Screening, 10 am–noon, Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, May 28:

Plant Sale, Community Garden at Community Center.

Closing Reception for Monterey Piecemakers Quilt Exhibit, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Joe Baker. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Information 528-9385.

Sunday, May 29:

Kenn Appreciation Concert with local musicians, 7 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse. Free. See p. 11.

Bidwell House Museum opens for season with colonial-era music performance, 3 pm, 100 Art School Road. $15 (members $10). See p. 14.

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day.

Observance, 11 am, Veterans Memorial Park, Route 23 at Blue Hill Road. Parade through center of town 1 pm, followed by refreshments at Firehouse.

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The Observer
March 26–April 25, 2011

High temp. (4/11)	78°
Low temp. (3/26)	15°
Avg. high temp.	49.7°
Avg. low temp.	29.6°
Avg. temp.	39.7°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.76 in.
Snowfall	3.6 in.

Precipitation occurred on 19 days.

Total snowfall for season ..... 141.4 in.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

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Editor..... Will Marsh
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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 5, 8; George Emmons, p. 18;
Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

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